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DAY LEAD MCCONE

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WASHINGTON, JAN. 18 (UPI)--PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S NOMINATION OF JOHN A. MCCONE TO HEAD THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY WAS ALL BUT ENGULFED TODAY IN THE DRIVE FOR CLOSER CONGRESSIONAL SCRUTINY OVER HIS SECRET ORGANIZATION.

NO REAL THREAT TO MCCONE'S SENATE CONFIRMATION WAS IN PROSPECT AS CHAIRMAN RICHARD B. RUSSELL, D-GA., CALLED THE 60-YEAR OLD SHIPBUILDING EXECUTIVE BEFORE THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE (10:30 A.M. EST). HOWEVER, TWO CHAMPIONS OF THE PROPOSAL FOR A CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE WERE SCHEDULED TO TESTIFY.

SEN. EUGENE J. MCCARTHY, D-MINN., AND REP. EMILIO Q. DADDARIO, D-CONN., WERE SCHEDULED TO TESTIFY ON THE MCCONE NOMINATION. BOTH HAVE ADVOCATED CREATION OF A SENATE-HOUSE WATCHDOG COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE AND BOTH WERE EXPECTED TO USE THE CONFIRMATION HEARING AS A SOUNDING BOARD FOR THAT VIEW.

BEFORE TURNING TO THE MCCONE NOMINATION RUSSELL WAS EXPECTED TO TAKE TESTIMONY ON THE NOMINATIONS OF FRED H. KORTH TO SUCCEED JOHN CONNALLY AS SECRETARY OF THE NAVY AND NEIL HARLAN TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE. NO CONTROVERSY WAS EXPECTED ON EITHER OF THOSE PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS.

IN ADVANCE OF THE HEARING, HOWEVER, MCCARTHY MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE HAS SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT THE QUALIFICATIONS OF MCCONE TO SERVE AS THE NATION'S TOP INTELLIGENCE OFFICER. MCCONE, A REPUBLICAN, SERVED THE EISENHOWER ADMINISTRATION AS CHAIRMAN OF THE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION, AND THE TRUMAN ADMINISTRATION AS UNDERSECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE.

WITHOUT ANNOUNCING OPPOSITION TO THE MCCONE NOMINATION, MCCARTHY HAS SAID THAT ITS APPROVAL BY THE SENATE WOULD BE EASIER IF THERE WERE A CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON THE JOB TO PROVIDE CLOSER SURVEILLANCE OF CIA OPERATIONS.

A SIMILAR PLEA FOR CLOSER CONGRESSIONAL SCRUTINY OVER THE NATIONS INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY WAS THE KEYNOTE OF A LONG SPEECH OFFERED FOR THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORT BYDADDARIO JUST A COUPLE OF DAYS BEFORE MCCONE'S APPOINTMENT WAS ANNOUNCED.

STRESSING THE NEED FOR CLOSER CONGRESSIONAL GUIDANCE FOR CIA, DADDARIO SUGGESTED THAT THE NEW CIA DIRECTOR SHOULD BE "A TOUGH-MINDED, INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATOR." PARTISANS OF MCCONE, AND THERE ARE SOME INFLUENTIAL ONES IN THE SENATE, HAVE USED JUST THOSE TERMS TO DESCRIBE HIS CONDUCT AS CHAIRMAN OF THE AEC.

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